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PART I

A ROMANCE OF THE MAYFLOWER

Historical & Genealogical Story

By

Wallace D. Trotter

Who is indebted  
For much of the data contained therein

To

Mr. Sidney S. Gorham, Attorney, Chicago

Dr. & Mrs. C.K. Little, Of East Chicago

Mrs. Minnie L. Trotter, Clayton, Indiana

Other Descendants  
and  
The Old Parsons Bible

Dedicated  
To  
The Memory of My Beloved Wife

MINNIE L. TROTTER

1961, Clayton, Indiana

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
ON THE  
PROGRESS OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
DURING THE  
YEAR 1892-93  
PRESENTED TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING  
Held at Chicago, Ill., June 10-12, 1893



## A ROMANCE OF THE MAYFLOWER

## Historical

John Howland and Elizabeth Tilley, daughter of John Tilley, passengers on board the Mayflower, who with other wayfarers in 1620, sailed for America, the Pilgrims founding Plymouth Colony, the first permanent settlement in New England. They were married December 26, 1620, their romantic venture resulting in the first generation, long life, and numerous posterity springing forth from the Mayflower.

Desire Howland, their daughter and grand-daughter of John Tilley and Bridget (Van de Velde) Tilley who was among the first born at Plymouth Colony, 1623 (died October 13, 1683 at Barnstable, Mass.) was married in 1643 to Captain John Gorham who emigrated here from Benefield, Northamptonshire, England in 1635. To this happy couple were born eleven children, six girls and five boys, this establishing the second and third generations of Mayflower descendants:

NAME	BIRTH	DEATH	MARRIED	TO
Desire (Gorham)	4/ 2/1644	1700	1661	Captain John Hawes
Temperance	5/ 5/1645	1714/15	1663	Edward Sturgis
Elizabeth	4/ 2/1648		1670	John Hallett
James	4/28/1650	1707	1673	Hannah Huckins
John (Lt. Col.)	2/20/1651/2	1716	1674	Daughter of John Otis
Joseph (Ensign)	2/16/1653/4	1726	1678	Sarah Sturgis
Jabez	8/ 3/1656	1725	1676	Hannah (Sturgis) widow of John Gray
Mercy	1/20/1658/9	1725		George Denison
Lydia	11/16/1661	1744	1683	(2nd wife) Col. John Thatcher
Hannah	11/28/1663	1728	1683	Joseph Whilldin (Wheelding)
Shubael	10/21/1667	1750	1695	Puella Hussey (Nantucket)

Shubael, the last and 11th child born of this renowned couple of Desire Howland and Captain John Gorham and his wife Puella Hussey, set up the Mayflower line for Louisa Annabel Parsons Little, the 9th generation, here under review; but the genealogy of Captain John Gorham may be traced to 1120 A.D. as indicated herewith.

JOHN HOWLAND. "He was a godly man, an ancient professor in the ways of Christ, one of the first comers into this land, the last man that was left of those that came over in the ship called the Mayflower, that lived in Plymouth." He was a Deputy in 1641, '45, '48, '61, '63, '66, '67, '70; assistant in 1634, and '35; a soldier in the Plymouth Military Company in 1643; a surveyor, he laid out the streets of Plymouth, one of which bears his name. He died February 23, 1673, aged 80 years. His widow, Elizabeth, died December 21, 1687, also 80. On Plymouth rock: "The bones of the Pilgrims found at various times in and near this enclosure and preserved for many years in the canopy over the Rock, were returned at the time of the tri-centennial Celebration, and are deposited within this monument erected by the General Society of the Mayflower in 1921, which monument marks the first burying ground in Plymouth of the passengers of the Mayflower, where under cover of darkness, the fast dwindling company laid their dead, leveling the earth above them lest the Indians should learn how many were the graves." "History records no nobler venture for Earth and Freedom, than that of this Pilgrim Band". John Tilley and his wife both died the first winter!

Reference: The Romantic Story of the Mayflower Pilgrims,  
by Albert Christopher Addison, L.C. Page & Co., Boston.

WDT-3/2/1961





Captain John Gorham, son of Ralph Gorham, Benefield, Northamptonshire, England, who married Desire Howland in 1643, was a descendant, of a long line of Gorhams, some of whose ancestry were members of the English aristocracy emigrating from France 1150 A.D. to England. He was appointed Captain of the Second Company of the Plymouth Forces in the King Philips war, died from the ill effects of exposure in the swamp fight, and was buried at Swansey, Mass., 2/5/1675/6. In 1646, he removed from Plymouth to Marshfield where in 1648, he was chosen Constable, removing to Yarmouth in 1652, from whence he was appointed Deputy to the Plymouth Colony Court in 1653, and in 1654, town surveyor of roads. He was a Selectman of Barnstable in 1673 and 1674; was appointed Lieutenant of Plymouth Force 1673 in the Dutch war, and captain of the 2nd Company October 4, 1675.

## 1923336

A farmer and tanner, he owned a mill. After his death, the widow, Desire, continued to live at Yarmouth, although she died at the house of her son in Barnstable, her estate being settled 3/5/1684. In 1669, in consideration of the good services performed by Captain John Gorham, the Plymouth Court granted him 100 acres of land at Papasquash Neck, and in 1677 confirmed the grant to his heirs forever. A similar grant of land in Gorham, Maine, also was participated in by his heirs.

An inventory of the estate of Captain John Gorham, tanner, late deceased, was exhibited to the Court held at Plymouth, Mass., 3/7/1675, on the oath of the widow Desire Gorham, James Gorham and John Gorham, Jr., in which instrument are mentioned the widow, Desire, sons James, John, Joseph, Jabez, Subael; and daughters Mercy, Lydia and Hannah. Captain John Gorham left a considerable estate consisting of a tannery with Mill, two dwelling houses, extensive lands, etc. Letters of administration were granted to the widow and sons James and John, Jr., the same day.

THE WILL OF ELIZABETH TILLEY HOWLAND, mother of Desire, is dated at Swensea, Mass., December 17, 1686.

REFERENCE IS MADE TO the blue print Genealogical Chart compiled between 1880 and 1906 by Frederick Wood of Philadelphia, Pa., now owned by Sidney S. Gorham, Jr. of the law firm of Miller, Gorham, Wescott & Adams, Chicago, Illinois. Two photostatic copies have been printed, one being filed with the Indiana State Library and one in the library of the late Minnie Little Trotter, beloved wife of the author Wallace D. Trotter. Towit: Ralph Gorham, 1575-1643, father of Captain John Gorham, was son of James Gorham, 1550-1576, who was son of John Gorham, 1500-1588, who lived at Clapthorne, England. Trace is here lost for a period of 200 years, but earlier than 1332 it is as follows: Ralph de Gorram who lived at La Tanniere on the Maine, on the borders of Brittany, France, had three sons, Geoffrey de Gorram, William and Henry. Geoffrey migrating to England about 1150, was Abbot of St Albans in 1120. William was the father of Robert, the Abbot of St Albans 1151-1156, Zahil, Ralph and Geoffrey 2nd, who was father of Sir Henry, Lord of Westwick. Sir Henry was the father of Sir William, the 1st, who died about the year 1230. Sir William the 1st married Ceilia Sanford, governess of Johanna, sister of Henry the 3rd., who died 1251. They were the parents of Sir William 2nd, who was the father of Sir Hugh de Gorram, 1250-1325, Lord of Churchfield in Northamptonshire, England, who married Margory, daughter of Sir William L'Angevine, died 1331. They had sons William 3rd, Nicholas and Thomas. Sir William 3rd, Lord of Churchfield, sold his inheritance in 1332, the family line being lost down to the time of John Gorham of Clapthorne, England, who died 1588. (Clapthorne, Benefield and Churchfield are within a mile of each other in Northamptonshire. Said John, above, was the father of James Gorham, 1550-1576, who married Agnes Barrington in 1572, and were the parents of Ralph Gorham, 1575-1643, Benefield, England, the father of Captain John Gorham who in 1643 married Desire Howland of Plymouth Colony.





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The 10th generation lineal descent of  
"Our Beloved Minnie, A Romance in Retrospect" Part II.

GENERATION	THE LINE	BIRTH	DEATH	AGE
1	JOHN HOWLAND, Essex, England Married--12/26/1620 Elizabeth Tilly, Essex, England	1592 1604	1673 1687	81 83
2	DESIRE HOWLAND, Plymouth Colony Married--1643 Captain John Gorham, Benefield, England	1623 1620	1683 1675	60 55
3	SHUBAEL GORHAM, Barnstable, Massachusetts Married--May, 1695 Puella Hussey, Nantucket	1667 ?	1750 ?	83 ?
4	DEBORIAH GORHAM, Barnstable Married--12/11/1735 Beriah Fitch, Nantucket	? ?	1789 ?	? ?
5 *	EUNICE FITCH Married--1/1/1755 Benjamin Barnard	1736 1735	1807 1792	71 57
6	LIBNI BARNARD Married-- Amy Macy	1765 1766	1828 1819	63 53
7	MARY BARNARD, Nantucket Married-- **James Parsons, North Carolina	1791 1771	1876 1857	85 86
8	REUBAN FITCH PARSONS, North Carolina Married--1/8/1854 Irena Armfield, North Carolina	1833 1835	1862 1863	29 28
9	LOUISA ANNABEL PARSONS, North Carolina Married--11/27/1878 Thomas Harvey Little, Indiana	1859 1854	1925 1941	66 87
10	MINNIE FLORENCE LITTLE, Indiana Married--(1) 8/9/1905 Arthur M. Davis Married--(2) 6/21/1952 Wallace D. Trotter	1879 1866 1879	1962 1926 ----	83 60 --

\* EUNICE FITCH, a grand daughter of Governor John Mason, first governor of Connecticut, makes her following line eligible to membership in "The Society of Daughters of Colonial Governors".

---\*\* James Parsons, son of George and Ruth Parsons, 1st married Mary Field, 1770-1820, daughter of Joseph and Lidia Field. They had 11 children. His 2nd wife, Mary Barnard, daughter of Mary and Libni Barnard of Nantucket Island, 1791-1876, had 7 children as follows:





The seven children of Mary Barnard and James Parsons, missing links, 8th generation, in the chain of Mayflower descendents, without whom the whole chain would be missing.

* Benjamin Franklin Parsons	4/17/1822	
Polly Parsons	8/23/1824	8/10/1828
-- Nelson Yancy Parsons	9/7/1826	
who married the daughter of Chief Joseph, a Cherokee of North Carolina.		
Martha Ann Parsons	9/22/1828	
Elihu Coalman Parsons	7/17/1831	12/27/1831
Reuben Fitch Parsons	10/4/1833	9/19/1862
Grandfather of Minnie F. Little		
Amy Eliza Parsons	8/22/1836	1911
1st married Alfred Bishop Fox, a widower		
2nd married Alfred Swain		

\* It was the firm belief of "Our Minnie" that Mary Barnard who named her first child Benjamin Franklin, was closely related to him which might be an established fact by a study of Mary Barnard's family.

-- Nelson Yancy who married the daughter of Chief Joseph of the Cherokee Tribe who sold Manhattan Island to the Dutch for a song or less, who called the Island New Amsterdam, had two sons, Oliver and Adrian. His wife died at the age of 66, 8/4/1893, and is buried in a country cemetery north of Plainfield on the Avon road and south of Avon. Her photograph is in possession of her granddaughter Leoti Hughes, daughter of Oliver. Copies have been made, one being in Minnie's library and one in the Indiana State Library. She has numerous descendants living in Hendricks County, including Ralph Parsons, County Auditor; all are proud of their Indian blood and look the part and known as substantial and respectable citizens. They too are descendants of the Mayflower Pilgrims, Nelson being an 8th generation.

Reuben Fitch Parsons of the 8th generation and his wife, Irena Armfield, both died at the early ages of 29 and 28 respectively, leaving three little girls. These children were sent from North Carolina to their aunt, a school teacher in Indiana, for her, Amy Eliza Parsons (8th generation) to raise. One of the little girls was Louisa Annabel Parsons, mother of Minnie Florence Little. One was Mary Ellen Parsons who died 8/18/1872, aged 15 years, 5 months and 6 days. The other was Martha F. who married Addison Hornaday. They removed to Robinson, Illinois, where she died at the age of 22 years, 5 months and 11 days, July 23, 1877. She was the mother of Pearl, a talented young lady in art, music, and sewing. She was trimming hats in Ohio where she met a Dr. Kreider and married him, afterwards living in Lena, Illinois where she taught school. After the death of her mother Martha, she was taken by her great aunt Amy and later by her aunt Louise Ann Little where she and Minnie became close companions. Pearl and Dr. Kreider had one child, a girl, and are buried in Maple Hill Cemetery at Plainfield, Indiana.

Amy Eliza Parsons, who took her three little nieces to raise and care for, married (1) Alfred Bishop Fox, a farmer near Plainfield, Indiana, and (2) Alfred Swain, Rushville, Indiana. A versatile young woman, she also served in the Cartersburg toll gate of Minnie's grandfather Samuel Little who operated 14 miles of the old National Road, now U.S. 40. Amy like all the children of James Parsons, was born in North Carolina. Why, how, or when Amy came to Indiana, I have no information. She died in 1911 at the age of 75.





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James Parsons presumably was like the old lady that lived in a shoe, had so many children she didn't know what to do. He wrote a beautiful hand, carefully recording the names of his children in a large, old Bible with a sheeps skin cover which is now reposing in Minnie's Library, indicating that love and happiness prevailed for his two wives and all 18 of his children. It is regrettable that the entire family cannot be included in the story or chain of Mayflower descendants. He died 2/15/1857 at age 86. No other information about him is available except as stated on page 3, and also a very old tintype photo of himself and Mary Barnard obtained from his great granddaughter Mrs. Leoti Hughes, granddaughter of Nelson, which is in Minnie's library. In submitting this very old Bible, to the Indiana State Library, copies were made of the data contained therein by Miss Carolynne L. Wendel, Head of the Genealogy Division, who also filed a copy of "A Romance of The Mayflower" Parts I and II, photograph of Elvira, daughter of Chief Joseph, wife of Nelson Yancy Parsons, and photo static copy of the Genealogical Chart compiled between 1880 and 1906 by Frederick Wood of Philadelphia. She was unable to date the PARSONS BIBLE, but it has received a lot of punishment on its journey through such a large family. It measures 9" x 11" x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", weighing 5 lbs., no fly leaves. This Holy Book starts with page 16, Chapter XIV of Genesis and ends with page 746, Chapter VIII of Revelations, some inner leaves are loose and misplaced. The first birth recording is that of Ruth Parsons, born the 9th day of July in the year 1795, making the book at least 166 years old as of the date of this treatise, 1961.

People who can qualify by tracing their ancestry to the Mayflower, and otherwise acceptable, are eligible to membership in the Indiana Society or the National Society of The Mayflower. A copy of the organization and officers of The Indiana Society is on file with the Indiana State Library, Mrs. Howard Taylor, 7845 Westfield Blvd., Indianapolis being the recording secretary at this time, 1959-1960. Article II of the By-Laws reads: "The object of the Society is to perpetuate the memory of the band of Pilgrims, passengers on the Mayflower, who landed at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, December 20, 1620; to preserve their records, their history, and all facts relating to them, their ancestors, and their posterity; to uphold and defend their faith by teaching love of God and Country." I regret to note that of hundreds and perhaps thousands of descendants, in this County and State, the roster of the Indiana Society shows only 96 members enrolled, whose applications have been submitted and elected by the Board of Governors.

# SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

The following information is being furnished to you for your information and guidance. It is the policy of the Department of Defense to maintain the highest degree of security in the handling of information of this nature. It is requested that you exercise the utmost discretion in the handling of this information and that you do not discuss it with anyone outside the Department of Defense. This information is being furnished to you for your information and guidance. It is the policy of the Department of Defense to maintain the highest degree of security in the handling of information of this nature. It is requested that you exercise the utmost discretion in the handling of this information and that you do not discuss it with anyone outside the Department of Defense.

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STATISTICS

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GENERATION		BIRTH	DEATH
9	Louisa Annabel Parsons M 11/27/1878 Thomas Harvey Little	1859 1854	1928 1941
	Children		
A	Minnie Florence Little	6/26/1879	5/17/1962
B	Samuel Alexander	2/6/1883	2/14/1960
	Infant Son	2/27/1885	1 mo. 3 ds.
C	Chester K.	7/7/1886	3/3/1962
D	Alfred Harrison	12/30/1888	
E	Donald Parsons	2/4/1893	
F	Amy Rebecca	9/16/1898	5/19/1948

10th Generation Marriages

B	Samuel Alexander,	6/15/1905	Ethol Martin
A	Minnie Florence, (1)	8/9/1905	Arthur Marshall Davis
	(2)	6/21/1952	Wallace D. Trotter
D	Alfred Harrison (1)	2/22/1912	Norris Adine Swearengin
	(2)	4/21/1962	Hazel Anna Jessup
C	Chester Kenneth	6/20/1917	Ava Cleora Guild
E	Donald Parsons	Bachelor	
F	Amy Rebecca	6/25/1923	Dr. Walter Lowell Sharer

Children & Grandchildren

10A	Minnie Florence Little	6/26/1879	5/17/1962
	M (1) Arthur Marshall Davis	5/22/1866	6/1/1926
	(2) Wallace D. Trotter	12/17/1879	
11A1	Infant Girl	5/8/1906	Same Day
11A2	Infant Boy	5/31/1910	Same Day
11A3	Arthur Marshall	8/3/1911	
11A4	David Wesley Davis II	3/10/1918	
11A3	Arthur Marshall Davis	8/3/1911	
	M 10/8/1944		
	Dorothy Mae Howard	6/19/1922	
12A3-1	Evan Marshall Davis	11/3/1950	
	St. Vincents Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana		
12A3-2	Jefferson Ryan Davis	3/26/1953	
	Toronto Western Hospital, Canada		
12A3-3	Murray Channing Davis	10/10/1954	
	Mt. Sinai, Toronto, Canada		
11A4	David Wesley Davis II	3/10/1918	
	M 11/7/1943		
	Martha Lillian DeLong	2/14/1921	
12A4-1	Jo Ann Davis	10/9/1945	
12A4-2	James Wesley Davis	6/24/1949	



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GENERATION		BIRTH	DEATH
10B	Samuel Alexander Little M 6/15/1905 Ethel Martin	2/6/1883  6/15/1883	2/24/1960
11B-1	Roger Martin Little	6/3/1906	Plainfield
11B-2	Robert Max Little	2/4/1911	Cartersburg
11B1-	Roger Martin Little M 3/5/1927 Atlanta, Ga. Alice Turner	6/3/1906  6/8/1906	Shaw, Mississippi
12B1-1	Roger Martin Little II (Captain)	10/8/1929	
12B1-2	Sally Little	9/8/1932	Cartersburg
12B1-1	Roger Martin Little II (Captain) M 10/20/1960 Montgomery, Ala. Elizabeth Ann Overton	10/8/1929  ?	
12B2	Sally Little M 1/27/1952 Valentine, Neb. Dale Lynn Sund	9/8/1932  8/15/1927	Cartersburg  S Sioux City, Neb.

Great Grandchildren

13B2-1	Jeffery Lynn Sund	4/28/1956	Valentine, Neb.
13B2-2	Christopher Martin Sund	12/30/1958	Valentine, Neb.
13B2-3	Julie Elizabeth Sund	8/16/1961	Valentine, Neb.
11B2	Robert Max Little M 9/28/1933 Marjorie Loraine Renn	2/4/1911  9/27/1912	Cartersburg, Ind.
12B2-1	Robert Joe Little	10/18/1941	
10C	Dr. Chester Kenneth Little M 6/20/1917 Ava Cleora Guild	7/7/1886  4/11/1888	3/3/1962 E. Chicago
11C-1	James Thomas Little M 7/5/1945 Grace Rae Whitmire	4/7/1923  9/30/1923	
12C1-1	Vicki Lynn	10/28/1946	
12C1-2	Sheri Leigh	9/23/1948	
12C1-3	Sandra Lou	<del>9/25/1950</del>	
12C1-4	Lauri Jane	9/25/1953	
10D	Alfred Harrison Little M (1) 2/22/1912 Norris Adine Swearengin M (2) 4/21/1962 Hazel Anna Jessup	12/30/1888  9/21/1890  6/12/1888	9/24/1960

5/2/1960





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GENERATION		BIRTH	DEATH
11D1	Thomas S. Little M 8/31/1940 Richmond, Kentucky Evelyn Calbert	12/9/1913  10/21/1913	
12D1-1	Jon Thomas Little	11/13/1942	
12D1-2	Sheila Sue	1/10/1949	
10E	Donald Parsons Bachelor, San Francisco, California	2/4/1893	
10F	Amy Rebecca Little M 6/25/1923 Dr. Walter Lowell Sharer	9/16/1898  6/14/1895	5/19/1948  2/5/1955
11F-1	Virginia Eloise	7/30/1928	
11F-2	Robert Mack Sharer, Bachelor	4/23/1934	Clayton
11F1	Virginia Eloise M 6/18/1950 John Richard Hurley	7/30/1928  8/7/1927	
12F1-1	David Lowell Hurley	3/29/1957	
12F1-2	Donna Carol	1/8/1959	

Finis Part I

Note: The above story, A Mayflower Romance, begun prior to the death of our beloved Minnie, was undertaken to preserve for friends and loved ones, her knowledge of facts and fiction related to her family and ancestry. Her bereaved husband who has tried to complete it without her would appreciate any errors or omissions being called to the attention of the author. Trusting the story meets with approval of all concerned.

Sincerely,

Wallace D. Trotter  
September 1, 1963

*Experiments of  
Wallace D. Trotter*





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Supploment

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In submitting this story "A Romance of the Mayflower", the author, Wallace D. Trotter, desires to include the names and dates of birth of the entire family of James Parsons, as carefully recorded in his family Bible, in his own hand writing:

First Wife. Mary Field, daughter of Joseph and Lidia Field, who was born September 24, 1770, probably in North Carolina, died January 30, 1820.

1.	Ruth Parsons	July 9, 1795
2.	Joseph	July 5, 1797
3.	George Parsons	April 13, 1799
4.	Lydia Parsons	April 11, 1801
5.	William Parsons	April 12, 1803
6.	Jane Parsons	March 2, 1805
7.	Melinda Parsons	February 8, 1807
8.	James Parsons	December 25, 1808
9.	Eli Parsons	December 19, 1810
10.	Peter Field Parsons	December 20, 1813
11.	Green Parsons	June 13, 1815

Second Wife. Mary Parsons, daughter of Libnie and Amy Barnard, who was the 7th generation of the Mayflower Line, was born September 4, in the year of our Lord, 1791, died June 12, 1876.

12-1	Benjamin Franklin Parsons	April 17, 1822
13-2	Polly Parsons	August 23, 1824
14-3	Nelson Yancy Parsons	September 7, 1826
15-4	Martha Ann Parsons was born the 22 day of September, 1828	
16-5	Elihu Coalman Parsons	July 17, 1831
17-6	Ruben Fitch Parsons	October 4, 1833
18-7	Amy Eliza Parsons	February 22, 1836

Supplement Finis



HISTORIC SKETCHES OF ROBERT RAGAN, SR. AND DESCENDANTS

By John S. Ragan M. D., Plainfield, Ind. 1928

Prepared in compliance with a request by Mr. Roscoe R. Leak who at that time was president of the Hendricks County Historical Society















